

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION

SUBJECT: THEODORE VON KARMAN

**FILE NUMBER: 40-13556 AND
100-372586 SERIALS X-29**

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA
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Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☐ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☐ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

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Section 552

Section 552a

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RECORDED

RES: MED

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-5 TC/mjg
ON 6-26-97

TO: VISA DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF STATE

November 28, 1941

In connection with the below entitled visa applicant case the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation reflect the following information.

Very truly yours,

CONFIDENTIAL

J. E. Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

TITLE:

Significant

PROF

THEODORE VON KARMAN;
Sponsors
Passports and Visas

Green Village, New Jersey

Relative to this individual, information is available that

TABLE 1.

NOV 28 1941

P. M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

J-65

A confidential source of information reported in December, 1937, that

6-13-51
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C.S.L.
gk

[REDACTED]

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PROFESSOR THEODORE VON KARMAN
University Aeronautics, Pasadena, Calif.

Information is available that he is a Hungarian Jew, who first entered the United States in October, 1926, and since that time, has made numerous trips between the United States and Europe. It was reported in May, 1941, that von Karman's sister, who lives with him, has declared herself to be a Nazi sympathizer on many occasions, and does not try to hide the fact that she is in favor of the Nazi cause. Von Karman is presently under investigation by this Bureau, along with two other individuals, all of whom are suspected of being engaged in espionage activities. (65-8943-46)

The duplicate copy of Form OH is being returned herewith.

July 18, 1942

TO: VISA DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF STATE

In connection with the below entitled visa applicant case the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation reflect the following information.

Very truly yours,

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED BY 354894 595 JC/MDH

ON 6.20.97

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

CIA Info. remains
unclass per letter DTD 9/23/98

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

TITLE:

Visa Applicants

THEODORE VON KARMAN;
Sponsors
PASSPORTS AND VISAS

PROFESSOR THEODORE VON KARMAN
University Aeronautics
Pasadena, California

Reference is made to my letter dated November 28, 1941, in connection with the visa application of [redacted] et al, in which information was furnished concerning Professor Theodore Von Karman and one [redacted] Von Karman. The following information is now available concerning [redacted]

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

A confidential informant advised on November 10, 1939 that Theodore Von Karman, together with other individuals, had access to the testing facilities for airplane models of the Army and Navy. The informant did not furnish information of which indicated that Von Karman was engaged in any suspicious activities, but suggested that he be investigated as he was of the opinion that he possessed pro-German sympathies.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
(65-8943-55)
MAILED 12
★ JUL 18 1942
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

INDEXED 10240E-13556-4
JUL 21 1942
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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Other information advised that Von Karman was entirely reliable and was anti-Nazi in sympathy. It has been reported that a number of marked maps of the TVA and various other bridges were discovered in the davenport taken from the home of one Theodore Von Karman, who at that time was residing at 1501 South Marango Street, Pasadena, California. In this same connection, it was stated that this individual had been called in by the Federal Government as an expert on stresses and strains after the collapse of the Takoma Bridge in Washington, and that he had made a survey of all suspension bridges in this country for the government. There is conflicting evidence as to whether or not this individual is on friendly terms with one Alexander Goetz of California, concerning whom considerable derogatory information is available indicating pro-German sympathies.

(65-8943-49)

Information made available indicates that Von Karman, on December 19, 1940, wrote to an individual of German extraction who was suspected of having engaged in espionage activities in this country.

(65-8943-55)

Confidential information is available that Von Karman corresponded on January 10, 1941, with an individual suspected of having engaged in espionage activities.

(65-8943-55)

On January 12, 1942, information was made available that an anonymous telephone call at Los Angeles, California reported that approximately one year before a man by the name of T. Kodama had contacted the informant relative to a business transaction. Kodama advised that he was employed by a Dr. Theodore Von Karman, who was an airplane designer for the United States Government and a Professor at the California Institute of Technology. The informant further advised that this individual displayed a picture of his employer, Dr. Theodore Von Karman, dressed in a robe which bore a large swastika thereon.

(65-8943-54)

Information received in June of 1942 from Los Angeles, California, advises that Theodore Von Karman has had a Japanese in his employ as a chauffeur, gardener and general handy man. Information is available that this individual is a Japanese named Podajiro Kodama and that he is reported to be a structural engineer who could read drawings and blueprints. According to this information, this individual has in the past had access to various blueprints and drawings which Von Karman had in his possession. Kodama, according to this information, has been removed from the Los Angeles area and is no longer in the employ of Von Karman.

(65-8943-5960)

Von Karman is presently the subject of an espionage investigation being conducted by this Bureau.

2-24-41

Summary above given [redacted] along with advise [redacted] that our investigation was [redacted] could without any action [redacted]

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS
Section

Subject: Theodore Von Karman

File: 100-372586
Serials X-29

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

FILE NO. **65-1145**

REPORT MADE AT CINCINNATI, OHIO	DATE WHEN MADE 10-6-41	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 8-30-41	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] RBR b7C
TITLE THEODORE VON KARMAN, with aliases, et al.			CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE (G)

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

THEODORE VON KARMAN was probably furnished with an old style identification pass of the War Department Air Corps Material Division, Wright Field, Ohio, which pass would take him under present regulations only to the information desk at the field, or any other air corps field, where he would be required to furnish further identification. VON KARMAN has worked at Wright Field on research problems in the aircraft laboratory wind tunnel.

(354-894)
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-8-97 BY SP9 JCH/ML

2cc's AEC (photo) 3/9/54

R U C

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent **[REDACTED]** Los Angeles, California, dated 8-12-41.

DETAILS:

An investigation at Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio, was requested to ascertain why an air corps identification card was issued to THEODORE VON KARMAN and to determine his connection with the air corps.

AT DAYTON, OHIO

100-372586-X Referred

100-OS-1200

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [REDACTED]	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE [REDACTED]	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 65-8943-46	RECORDED
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5-Bureau 2 Los Angeles 2 Cincinnati		OCT 8 1941	

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Section 552a

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| ☐ (b)(4) | ☐ (b)(8) | ☐ (k)(5) |
| ☐ (b)(5) | ☐ (b)(9) | ☐ (k)(6) |
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

LA FILE NO. **65-265**

REPORT MADE AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA	DATE WHEN MADE 5-7-40	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11-14; 12-27, 29-39 4-27, 29-40	REPORT MADE BY jac
TITLE THEODORE VON KARMAN; ALEXANDER GOETZ;			CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: **THEODORE VON KARMAN**, Professor of Aeronautics, California Institute of Technology is alleged to be a Hungarian Jew and very much opposed to Nazi Government. Dr. **SPIRO KYROPOULOS**, a Research Fellow in Physics at CIT recently submitted plans or specifications of a military nature to some U.S. Government department. Although **KYROPOULOS** thought this transaction confidential, **ALEXANDER GOETZ**, Departmental Head at CIT, admonished **KYROPOULOS** for not taking the matter up with him before submitting it to government. **GOETZ** is native of Prussia, and thought to be Nazi sympathizer, although he does not express beliefs. **GOETZ** is close friend of Salesman for Adolph Frese Corp., Los Angeles. is native of Germany who sells heat regulators and thermometers which are used by aircraft manufacturers.

and has gone out of his way to disclaim German affiliations. Although there are several foreign Teaching Fellows in Aeronautics Department at CIT, it is not known whether they have access to the wind tunnel or confidential information obtained therefrom. advised it is his belief that the wind tunnel at CIT is closely guarded against unauthorized admittance - this belief being substantiated by Pasadena, California, student at CIT.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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- 1- OAI, Ft. McArthur
- 2- ONI, San Diego
- 2- Los Angeles

MAY 15

DETAILS: The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent

Pasadena, California,
advised the Los Angeles
Division by letter dated November 15, 1939 of the following information:

had received information that a Dr. SPIRO KYROPOULOS, a Research Fellow in Physics at the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, recently submitted certain plans or specifications of a military nature to some United States Government department. Although this transaction was confidential, Dr. KYROPOULOS was astonished a few days later to find that Dr. COETZ, head of one of the departments at Cit, knew of this transaction. COETZ is alleged to have admonished KYROPOULOS for not taking the matter up with him before submitting it to the Government.

KYROPOULOS took his degree in Physics at the University of Leipzig, and came to this country in 1937

KYROPOULOS is alleged to have been an engineer in the German submarine service during the first World War. In this same letter furnished the names of the following who are alleged to be pro-Nazi - the comments or are quoted:

JOE CASPROWLACK, "40, definitely pro-Nazi. Lives at hotel. In U.S. about 12 yrs. Works as Flower Boy. Amateur photographer."

"age unknown, has final citizenship papers, works in Flower Room, pro-Nazi, known as Amateur photographer."

"age unknown, no papers, known as possible pro-Nazi."

"age unknown, possible pro-Nazi."

"age unknown, has citizenship papers, married, supposed to be active in, if not head of, local Bund."

"age unknown, no papers, possible pro-Nazi."

Upon interview advised that he has studied at the California Institute of Technology for the past years, and is personally acquainted with the majority of professors at that

institution. He stated that Dr. THEODORE VON KARMAN, Head of the Aeronautics Department at CIT, bears the reputation of being definitely anti-Nazi. said that

who is presently at CIT, is very anti-Nazi; that recently advised him that VON KARMAN is a Hungarian Jew, and that on several occasions he has assisted in aiding Jewish refugees in leaving Germany. According to VON KARMAN resides at 1501 South Morengo Avenue, Pasadena, with his sister; and his description is as follows:

Name	THEODORE VON KARMAN
Age	60 years
Height	5' 6"
Weight	160 pounds
Hair	Gray
Eyes	Dark
Speech	German accent

stated that VON KARMAN is a close friend of the actress, and that he has never heard anything which would indicate that he is sympathetic toward the Nazi Government.

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further advised that the information which he had received relative to ALEXANDER GOETZ criticizing KYROPOULOS for sending his specifications or plans of military value to one of the departments of the United States Government at Washington, D.C. - was obtained from

stated that he would keep in touch with and endeavor to develop an acquaintance with KYROPOULOS in an effort to obtain definite information relative to what plans or specifications he submitted to the government; and further to learn how GOETZ obtained the information that the plans had been submitted. stated that while GOETZ is very close-mouthed about his political views, he is thought to be a Nazi sympathizer.

further stated that quite some time ago.

is connected with the Soviet Embassy at is now in Washington, D.C., employed in one of the governmental departments as a physicist.

stated that advised him that GOETZ is a Prussian, and was having difficulty with the Nazi Government when he left Germany. However, after arriving in the United States, GOETZ made definite efforts to obtain the good will of the Nazi Government and is undoubtedly pro-Nazi in his sympathies at the present time.

Abstract

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Section 552a

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stated that the wind tunnel at CIT is used by all of the local manufacturers of airplanes to test out models, both commercial and those being manufactured for the Army and Navy; that immediately above the wind tunnel there are several computing rooms where the confidential data relative to the performance of the planes in the wind tunnel are recorded; and even though a person did not obtain access to the wind tunnel, if he could obtain the confidential data relative to the plane's performance he would undoubtedly have a great deal of valuable information concerning the new models. stated that he understood that a great deal of care is exercised by the officials of CIT in order to prevent students from gaining entrance to the wind tunnel and computing rooms. However, he stated, all the professors in the Aeronautics Department, and Research Fellows, could probably gain access to the wind tunnel.

stated that the catalog for the CIT reflects that BASIL PETROVICH ANTONENKO is a Teaching Fellow in the Aeronautics Department, and that he is from the Petersburg School of Naval Aviation - probably Russia. Further that the catalog shows JOHN SHOICHI ATSUMI is a Teaching Fellow and Assistant in the Aeronautics Department at CIT; that he has a BS degree from the University of Southern California, obtained in 1932, and a MSE degree from the University of Michigan, obtained in 1935. The school catalog also reflects that GEORGE YOSHIO TSUBOTA is a Teaching Fellow and Assistant in the Aeronautics Department at CIT. TSUBOTA obtained a BS degree at CIT in 1937, and a MS degree there in 1938; and that these last two mentioned individuals are Japanese.

stated that it is very possible that all three of the above-mentioned individuals could gain access to both the wind tunnel and computing rooms. However, he stated that he had no definite information that such was the case.

It will be recalled that this investigation was predicated upon information as set forth in reference letter to the effect that foreigners, including VON KAPLAN, who were studying or teaching at CIT, had access to the wind tunnel where all new airplane models for the Army and Navy manufactured in this area are tested. In this regard it is believed that

CIT, could furnish information of value concerning the various individuals mentioned in this report - as well as information regarding possible access by them to the wind tunnel and computing rooms. has in the past furnished information of value to this office, and is very cooperative.

-2-

was mentioned the letter previously referred to, as possibly being in a position to furnish information relative to VON KARMAN. This person is undoubtedly

was telephonically contacted and he advised that he left CIT approximately years ago, and is, therefore, not able to furnish any information of value relative to activities of persons at CIT. The nature of this investigation was not disclosed to

subsequently advised that he learned that is a native of Germany, definitely pro-Nazi in his sympathies.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent

was recontacted, at which time he stated that he had since ascertained that the secrecy surrounding entries into the wind tunnel building was due chiefly to keep various experiments of the several aircraft industries who make tests in the tunnel, confidential. He had also learned that the rules regarding entering the tunnel are strictly observed and that it is the most difficult building on the campus to gain entrance to. stated that it was his opinion that VON KARMAN was entirely reliable, being anti-Nazi, a citizen of the United States, and one of the top-ranking men in the field of aeronautical science.

No further information was obtained by regarding ALEXANDER GOETZ. Regarding SPIRO KYROPOULOS, stated that his original informant, had been unable to obtain any further information.

As further information regarding who contacts ALEXANDER GOETZ on the average of twice a week, stated that he had personally had contacts with all of the aircraft industries in and about Los Angeles, and had discussed conduct with the various officials at each place, pointing out his suspicions regarding and his contacts with GOETZ. No recent information regarding had been obtained other than that is still strongly pro-Nazi.

stated that GOETZ and KYROPOULOS are not known personally to him. Further that he had no reason to contact VON KARMAN in his studies, and therefore did not

know him. was very cooperative, and stated that he would be on the alert for any information indicating subversive activities or espionage - and in line with that, would contact and request him to also watch for any irregularities in the branch of the school. The importance of strict confidential treatment of all information and inquiries was impressed on who stated that he would be very careful when obtaining information.

advised that by actual test on his part he has ascertained that admittance to the wind tunnel and access to any information developed from experiments therein, is extremely difficult; and that the tunnel is kept under lock and key at all times, admittance therein being restricted only to authorized persons, and exceptions permitted only on occasions when persons have obtained a pass from the person in charge of the tunnel.

CLOSED

100-392586-X1

65-8943-49

RECEIVED

December 23, 1941

Special Agent in Charge
Los Angeles, California

RE: THEODORE VON KARMAN, with
aliases, et al;
ESPIONAGE - G.

Dear Sir:

There are transmitted herewith for your information and possible aid in the subsequent investigation of this case, photostatic copies of a confidential report received from the Military Intelligence Division of the War Department.

This report is dated October 26, 1941, and contains the results of an investigation made at Fort MacArthur, California, concerning subject.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

354-396

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-21-97 BY SP5JC/om

Enclosure

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Tracy _____

4 JAN 23 1942

Mr. Rosen	COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
Mr. Carson	MAILED
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Hendon	★ DEC 24 1941 ★
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	P. M.
Mr. Nease	FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Mr. Sandy	U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☐ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☐ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☐ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request or the subject of your request is listed in the title only.

- ☒ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

_____ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

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- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **LOS ANGELES**

FILE NO. **65-265**

REPORT MADE AT LOS ANGELES	DATE WHEN MADE 1/8/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12/2-5, 13, 22, 23; 1/1/42	REPORT MADE BY
TITLE THEODORE VOL MARIAN, with aliases; ALEXANDER GOETZ, with aliases;			CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - G

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Informant advises subject GOETZ a friend of
of
Los Angeles and San Francisco, respectively. Subject GOETZ has had Japs as guests at home.
wrote letter to subject from New York, saying that she had finished the job she was sent to do, and got the information she went after. Subject receives mail from Germany on average of one or two each week. Both subject GOETZ have made statements reflecting sympathy with the Japanese. Subject mailed three letters to Germany on Monday morning, December 8, 1941, the day after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Subject have become friendly with a neighbor who is connected with the Coast Guard.

P.

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent Los Angeles,
dated August 12, 1941.
Los Angeles letter to the Bureau dated December 4, 1941.
Los Angeles letter to the Bureau dated December 16, 1941.
Los Angeles letter to Bureau dated August 15, 1941.
Bureau letter to Los Angeles dated December 23, 1941.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
2 FEB 3 1942 COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau 1 G-2, San Francisco 1 G-2, Los Angeles 1 O. N. I., Los Angeles 3 Los Angeles	<i>[Handwritten: 65-265-154]</i> <i>[Handwritten: RECEIVED]</i> <i>[Handwritten: 1-21-42]</i>

DETAILS:

Memorandum for the file, dated September 2, 1941, reflects that on August 28, 1941, information was telephonically furnished to this office by the TWA that DR. VON KARPAN was departing at 6:00 P.M. for New York City on the Stratoliner and was leaving on August 29, 1941, aboard the American Line, Trip 36, New York City, en route to Providence, Rhode Island.

Memorandum for the file dated September 8, 1941, reflects that on August 28, 1941, Pasadena, telephonically advised Special Agent that she had some information to divulge to the Bureau concerning a possible spy of a serious nature. She said that several months previously she had communicated with the Los Angeles Office and had furnished data concerning the activities of a certain individual in Pasadena, whose name she did not wish to divulge on the telephone. She said that at the present time she had additional information concerning the same subject but that such information was of such a serious nature that she could not reveal it unless personally contacted by a Bureau Agent. Informant was advised that she would be contacted by a Special Agent within the near future. A search of the files in the Los Angeles Field Office reveals that informant had given information concerning THEODORE VON KARPAN, L. A. File No. 65-265.

Memorandum for the file dated September 25, 1941, reflects that upon instructions of Assistant Special Agent in Charge Special Agent telephonically contacted Pasadena, and requested an interview at her convenience. It was suggested by had certain information which she would furnish the Bureau and he suggested that she be contacted. suggested that Agent contact her between 10:00 and 11:00 on September 17, 1941, which request was complied with and furnished the following information:

That the proprietor of while doing some work for her had told her that he, while doing some at another residence had observed a divan in which there appeared to be a secret compartment, and that in this compartment there were a large number of railroad maps, reported to show the location of railroads in the United States, and that on these maps all bridges were marked.

stated that she was advised by that the residence in which he observed these maps with the bridges marked thereon was at the home of Dr. JOSEPHINE De KARMAN, who is the sister of Dr. VON KARMAN, who is employed by the California Institute of Technology. further stated that advised her that previous checks which have been given him in payment for by Dr. JOSEPHINE De KARMAN had been signed Dr. JOSEPHINE VON KARMAN.

advised that to her personal knowledge VON KARMAN was employed at the California Institute of Technology, and that he was a recognized authority on the subject of stresses and strains of bridges. She further advised that

2
10
10 mentioned to her that Dr. VON KARMAN had been approached by the German Government in an effort to induce VON KARMAN to return to Germany.

It is to be noted in connection with the above memorandum that subsequent information revealed that the maps mentioned in the memorandum were in subject VON KARMAN's possession legally and rightfully. Furthermore, information furnished by Confidential National Defense Informant known to the Bureau under Bureau cover letter dated December 23, 1941, reflects that these maps were rightfully in subject's possession.

A memorandum for the file dated October 6, 1941, reflects that Special Agent was telephonically advised by Confidential National Defense Informant No. that Professor GOETZ, who is purportedly on the staff of the California Institute of Technology, is an ardent Nazi sympathizer. The informant stated that this individual has, on many occasions, made pro-Nazi statements indicating sincere and ardent belief and support of the Nazi regime. The informant also stated that

in the same institution, the California Institute of Technology, can verify Professor GOETZ' sympathy and allegiance to the Nazi regime.

A card from Confidential National Defense Informant reflects that a review of the record of subject ALEXANDER GOETZ in their files, reveals a strong German Nationalism and sympathy for the Nazi cause, and association with numerous individuals who are known to be engaged in espionage. The conclusion is drawn

that subject would be a distinct threat to the National security if permitted his liberty, in the event of hostilities between the United States and Germany; reclassified as dangerous accordingly.

Memorandum for the file dated December 16, 1941, reflects that under date of December 9, 1941, an anonymous informant telephonically contacted Special Agent [redacted] and reported that about one year ago a Japanese chauffeur named T. KODAMA had contacted her relative to a business transaction; that he said he was employed by DR. THEODORE VON KARMAN, who is an airplane designer for the U. S. GOVERNMENT and a Professor at California Institute of Technology. This informant further advised that the Japanese chauffeur at the time he contacted her, displayed a picture of his employer, DR. VON KARMAN, THEODORE, dressed in a robe which bore a large Swastika thereon. The informant advised that DR. JOSEPHINE VON KARMAN, sister of THEODORE, had taught language classes last year at the University of California. THEODORE VON KARMAN resides at 1501 South Marengo, near Pasadena, and it is thought that his sister, JOSEPHINE VON KARMAN, resides with him. It was further stated by the informant that according to the telephone directory, T. KODAMA resides at 717 Cypress Street, Los Angeles.

Repeated efforts to contact T. KODAMA have been made, with negative results. The telephone number of T. KODAMA is SYcamore 35028. A lead is being set out to make further efforts to contact KODAMA for the purpose of interviewing him regarding the above information.

The Los Angeles Field Division has no record in their files concerning KODAMA.

Confidential National Defense Informant [redacted] advises that subject VON KARMAN is a Hungarian Jew, and recognized as one of the leading aeronautical experts in the world. When VON KARMAN received an offer from Germany requesting his return to Germany for military purposes, VON KARMAN jokingly asked Confidential National Defense Informant [redacted] if he shouldn't send them a picture of his profile. Informant advised that VON KARMAN had been cleared by both the office of [redacted] and [redacted] after a request by the National Defense Research Committee at California Institute of Technology, inasmuch as the Institute wanted to use VON KARMAN as a consultant. Informant advised that [redacted] investigated subject concerning the

alleged finding of bridge pictures in VON KASZAN's home. Informant stated he was sure this was in connection with a consultation concerning the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, which collapsed approximately a year ago, and at that time he was given the maps and pictures of many other bridges to check for the same possibilities. Informant further advised that each of the employees at the Institute had been required to read appropriate sections of the Espionage Act, and sign a statement saying that they had read this Act, and also furnish a great deal of history concerning themselves. Informant advised that this information was on forms which were filed at the school, and which she would be glad to produce. The forms were produced, and the information thereon appears as follows:

THEODORE VON KASZAN,
1501 South Marengo Avenue,
Pasadena, California.

Date: February 27, 1941

Marital status: Single

Position: Director, Guggenheim Aeronautical Laboratory

Date of Appointment: 1928

Former positions:

Assistant Professor, University of Göttingen, 1909 to 1913

Professor of Aeronautics and Director of Aeronautical
Institute, University of Aachen, 1913-1920

Visiting Professor in United States, Japan,

China and India, 1926 to 1929

Advisor, Guggenheim Airship Institute, Akron,
Ohio, since 1930

Born May 11, 1881, Budapest, Hungary

Entered United States September, 1926, at
New York City

Naturalized July 21, 1936, Southern District of
California

Father and mother born in Hungary

Education: University of Budapest, Hungary (B. S. 1900)

University of Göttingen, Germany, Ph. D.

Description:

Height 5' 8"

Weight 145 pounds

Eyes brown

Hair black and gray

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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Section 552

Section 552a

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☒ (b)(7)(D)

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☐ (b)(6)

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UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

At Altadena, California, will ascertain the correct address of the subject ALEXANDER GOETZ.

At Pasadena, California, will investigate subject GOETZ's bank account at the bank at the corner of Madison and Colorado, Pasadena, California.

At Los Angeles, California, will interview T. KODAMA, anonymously reported to be a former chauffeur of VON KATMAN, relative to the information appearing above.

Will attempt, through confidential sources, to obtain information appearing in the cablegram sent by subject from 2400 Holliston, Altadena, California, at about 2:00 o'clock A.M. on approximately August of 1940.

Confidential National Defense Informant

Confidential National Defense Informant

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Los Angeles, California
December 16, 1941

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Holloman
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Miss Gandy
File

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Re: THEODORE^① VON KARMAN^②, was, ET AL;
ESPIONAGE - G
CUSTODIAL DETENTION MEMORANDUM

It is respectfully suggested that subject VON KARMAN's name be deleted from the Custodial Detention Lists, inasmuch as a review of subject's file reflects no information whatsoever to the effect that he is engaged in activities inimical to the interests of the United States or has ever made statements showing sympathy to any foreign government.

On the contrary, the results of the investigation of subject VON KARMAN reflects that he is very anti-Nazi and pro-American. Subject VON KARMAN is an Hungarian Jew.

Very truly yours,

R. B. Hood

R. B. HOOD
Special Agent in Charge

WED:EEG
65-265
100-0-A

100-372586-X2 y

RECORDED

354-894
DECLASSIFIED BY SP5 JC/rgm

OR 529-97

7 JAN 3 1942

65-8943-50
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEC 19 1941
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

January 14, 1943

MEMORANDUM

Re: THEODORE VON KARMAN

A confidential informant advised on November 15, 1939, that Theodore Von Karmen, who appears to be identical with the subject, together with other "foreigners" was studying and teaching at the California Institute of Technology, and by virtue of such position had access to the testing facilities for airplane models of the Army and Navy. The informant did not furnish information of a specific character which indicated that Von Karmen was engaged in any suspicious activity, but suggested that he be investigated, as it was thought that he possessed pro-German sympathies. Other informants have advised that Von Karmen is entirely reliable, is anti-Nazi in sympathy and has been active in aiding Jewish refugees in leaving Germany. (y) b7C b7D

[redacted] Pasadena, Calif.
65-8943-2; also 65-32107-51
Information has been made available which reflects that Von Karmen on December 19, 1940, wrote to an individual of German extraction who is suspected of having engaged in espionage activities in this country. (Report of [redacted] dated 12-29-41 at Los Angeles, 65-32107-4) b7C b7D

65-32107-4) confidential informant advised that a subject suspected of having engaged in espionage activities had corresponded with Von Karmen on January 10, 1941. (Conf. Infr. [redacted] Los Angeles, 65-32054-91) b7C b7D

(354,894)
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-21-92 BY SP5 JCT/SP5

RECORDED

100-372586-X3
65-8943-51
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
4 JAN 23 1942
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

WSC:hr

January 19, 1942

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
BY SPECIAL DELIVERY

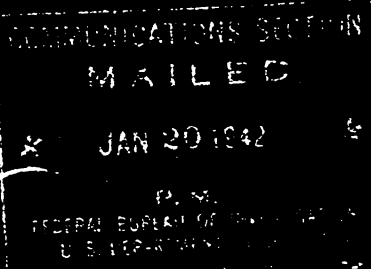
Honorable Adolf A. Berle, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Berle:

Reference is made to your communication dated October 14, 1941, in which you requested information concerning a number of persons connected with foreign language organizations in this country. In accordance with your request I am attaching hereto summary memoranda concerning some of the individuals whose names were included in your list, and it will be noted that my communication directed to you under date of November 14, 1941, contained the names of individuals who had been checked through the files of this Bureau, but no derogatory information which could be identified with these persons was disclosed.

A search of the files has been made in regard to the following named individuals, but no information of a derogatory character could be identified with any of the names included in this group:

✓ ✓
Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____



Honorable Adolf A. Berle, Jr.

Page Two

It was noted that the name of _____ was included in your list, and you are advised that no search has been conducted in regard to this individual.

The names of the other persons contained in your list, however, are being searched through the files, and you will be furnished with available information in regard to these persons at an early date.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure

The following names were included in the list of memoranda forwarded under the above date.

Theodore Von Karman

Honorable Adolf A. Berle, Jr.

Page Three

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

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Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☐ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☐ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

FILE NO. **65-265**

REPORT MADE AT LOS ANGELES	DATE WHEN MADE 6/3/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 1/19; 2/3, 5, 23; 3/2, 23, 24, 27, 31; 4/10, 13, 16, 21; 5/15, 26; 6/2/42	REPORT MADE BY GIF
TITLE THEODORE VON KARMAN, with aliases; Theodor Von Karman, Theodor De Karman; ALEXANDER GOETZ, with aliases, Carl Goetz, Alexander Carl Goetz, Karl Wilhelm Alexander Gustav Goetz;			CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE (G)

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

File reviewed and brought up to date. Subject VON KARMAN has had a Japanese in employ as a chauffeur who was formerly reported to have been a structural engineer in Japan and to have listened to Japanese broadcasts weekly. Subject GOETZ reported to have proposed a toast to the Bismarck a day or two after the sinking of the HMS Hood, and to have sailed around Balboa Bay with a German officer from the scuttled ship "Columbus". GOETZ further reported to have stated his interest to be in Germany rather than in the United States. Subject's bank account checked with negative results. Subject's sympathies reported definitely pro-German according to recent remarks.

- P -

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent
Los Angeles 1/8/42.
Bureau letter 1/13/41 (65-8943).
Letter to Bureau 2/2/42.
Letter to El Paso 5/25/42.

DETAILS:

The following information was received under date of January 21, 1942 with reference to subject

VON KARMAN:

"THEODOR VON KARMAN
1501 So. Marengo Avenue Pasadena

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 65-8943-1 JUN 2
⑤ Bureau 1/17/42 2 El Paso 1 G-2 San Francisco 1 ONI Los Angeles 3 Los Angeles 1 ONI San Diego		

"61 years, 6'1" - 240 lbs.

Black Curly Hair, Brown Eyes

Occasionally wears glasses, is nervous. Born: Budapest.

American citizen (?) Occ.: Professor of Aero-dynamics at California Institute of Technology

Resides with his sister, JOSEPHINE who is described as 58 yrs. of age, red hair (dyed). ~~VON KARMAN~~

"Checked with the Credit Bureau who have a record since 1934. At that time he was reported to be connected as professor and director of the Guggenheim Aerodynamic Laboratory, receiving a salary of \$9500 per year.

"Received his degree in Mechanical Engineering in Budapest in 1902. P.H. in Gottingen in 1908. Honorary degree of Doctor of Engineering at the University of Berlin in 1929. Privatdocent Gottingen 1910-13, Director of Aero-Dynamic University Aachen 1913 to 1934. Honorary advisor of the Aeronautical Department at Tsing Hua University in China in 1933. Member of Gesellschaft Der Wissen Schoften zu Gottingen in 1925. Foreign member of Royal Academy of Science in Torino in 1928. Rouseball lecturer at the University of Cambridge in 1937. C.R.B. lecturer in Belgium in 1937. In 1936 newspaper item stated that he had been elected honorary fellow in the Instruction of Aeronautical Science, stating that he was one of the world's foremost aerodynamic experts.

"The property at his residence address was assessed to him, valuing the land at \$5350, and improvements as \$3360, personal account was \$1200.

~~DEFINITE~~
"In 1935 his sister reported that she used the name of ~~de~~KARMAN because she had lived in Paris a number of years. She stated that their name was originally a Hungarian name and was very long, and explained that her brother used VON KARMAN because he had lived in Germany many years.

"This subject has had in his employ, as a gardener, houseman, and general handyman, for approximately the last five or six years, one *TODAJIRO KODAMA (Japanese) Alien Registration No. 4732655. Age 61 years, 5'2 1/2" - 122 lbs. Gray hair, gray eyes (left eye slightly cocked). Is married. Wife's name is CORA, white, American. Married in Tia Juana. Address: 717 Cypress Ave., Pasadena. Telephone SY. 3-5028. He states that he entered this country through San Francisco, and has never been back to Japan. Has no children or living relatives.

sne observed KODAMA on many occasions, in his capacity of houseman,

"arranging and looking through papers on subject's desk. On many occasions subject would bring home blueprints and drawings relative to his work, which informant has seen, and she states that frequently KODAMA would be required, by this subject, to take these blueprints and drawings to Cal Tech, when subject would forget to take them with him. Our informant became very perturbed at this condition due to the fact that KODAMA had confided in her, at one time while partially under the influence of intoxicants that while he was in Japan he had been a structural engineer and could read drawings and blueprints. When informant called this condition to the attention of subject's sister JOSEPHINE she ignored the warning and said KODAMA was a harmless, ignorant Jap, and they had confidence in him.

"Our informant states that once a week, usually Thursday night, a heavy set, well dressed Japanese would call for KODAMA and then they would go to Los Angeles. When she asked KODAMA what they did he stated that they 'listened to Japan'. Our informant states that KODAMA is very well versed in current events.

Our informant states that she was very suspicious of these two women. but due to the fact that she was very much occupied she was unable to verify her suspicions, however, due to information in our files it is entirely possible that there is grounds for her suspicion.

"Informant also states that subject employed

we found in his billfold a membership card in The Southern California Automobile Club, issued to Dr. VON KARMAN. We inquired as to how it came into his possession, he said 'He is just a friend'.

was interviewed at the Tujunga Canyon Detention Station subsequent to his apprehension as an enemy alien and he advised that TODAJIRO KODAMA had given instant card to so that in the event that ever became involved in an automobile accident he could show this card and it would assist him with the police. advised that

KODAMA has about three or four such cards every year and that he had given one to [redacted] Questioned concerning what he knew about KODAMA, advised that he knew nothing about KODAMA being a structural engineer in Japan and that he had met KODAMA at [redacted] vegetable stand at 425 South Fair Oaks In Pasadena and that the only thing he knew about him was that KODAMA was married to a white woman who was very old. He stated that he knew this only because KODAMA had told him so.

Referenced report sets out a lead to interview KODAMA concerning information to the effect that he possessed a picture of VON KARMAN dressed in a robe with the Nazi swastika insignia thereon. The interview with KODAMA took place prior to the information received as set forth above, consequently no information was developed relative to the card which he had given

However, in view of the fact that no information was developed from [redacted] it is not deemed necessary to reinterview KODAMA. KODAMA advised that he was VON KARMAN'S chauffeur and also acted in the capacity of cook and gardener. He was asked to furnish a picture of VON KARMAN and he advised that he did not possess any pictures of him. He stated that he had been employed by VON KARMAN for about four years and that he had not returned to Japan in the last forty five years, having come to this country at that time. He stated that he was well satisfied with this country and that he did not ever want to return to Japan inasmuch as he heard that people were all poor in Japan. He stated that subject VON KARMAN was very opposed to HITLER and that he has never seen any swastika insignia in the home. He said that VON KARMAN had become a citizen about ten or twelve years ago and that VON KARMAN'S sister likewise shared subject's dislike for Germany. It is to be noted that the recent alien evacuation program has resulted in KODAMA'S being removed from this area and he is therefore no longer in the employ of VON KARMAN.

On February 21, 1942 a teletype was received from the Cleveland Office advising that subject ALEXANDER GOETZ was expected to arrive at Cleveland that night from Cornin~~g~~. New York and that while he was there he was expected to contact [redacted] National Carbon Company, Cleveland. The teletype further advised that the Cleveland file was closed on this case and no further investigation was contemplated unless contrarily advised. Inasmuch as subject GOETZ was on a business trip at the time in connection with his research work, it was not deemed advisable to request a surveillance of his activities.

A card dated February 21, 1942 was received from [redacted] Confidential National Defense Informant concerning subject GOETZ, reflecting as follows:

"Subjects are friends. Subjects [redacted] relationship is accepted as one of common law marriage, and these subjects are considered pro-German and anti-British.

Subject

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

13

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Section 552

Section 552a

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Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

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100-372586-X4 pg 6-18

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Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.
August 11, 1942

CAA:PCB

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TRACY

RE: NICOLAUS KARMAN CARE GLOSZ TURA HOTEL BERN (SWITZERLAND)
THEODORE KARMAN
SUSPICIOUS MESSAGE INTERCEPTED BY CABLE CENSORSHIP

Mr. E. A. _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

For the consideration of Mr. Kimball and Mr. Hince the Laboratory makes the following observations on the cable message cited herein. The original of this cable was returned to [REDACTED] by special messenger.

CONTENTS OF MESSAGE:

b7C

CCC AUG 9-42

1. SJ215 25 CABLE PASADENA CALIF 8 905P NIT
 2. NICOLAUS KARMAN CARE GLOSZ TURA HOTEL BERN (SWITZERLAND)
 3. BOTH ARE IN SATISFACTORY HEALTH JOSEPHINE HAS SLIGHT HEART TROUBLE WILL WRITE VIA RED CROSS
 4. THEODORE KARMAN
 5. MM REFERRED PER CCC 53346 ADSE & SNDR: NSL
 7. WU
- 1129 CNY 76159 SGB

COMMENTS:

It is suspected that this message is intended for Germany.
It is suggested that the sender be investigated.

354-894

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-21-92 BY SP5 JCL/m



Respectfully,

E. P. Coffey

19 1942

COPY IN FILE

COPY 2/26/51 MLS

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

WB:DWR:FF

146-7-343

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

December 8, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR,
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Re: THEODORE VON KARMAN, with aliases,
ALEXANDER GOETZ, with aliasas -
Espionage - G

Reference is made to the above-entitled case, in connection with which we have recently received copies of the following investigative reports:

- b7c
1. Report of [REDACTED] 6-26-41 Los Angeles
 2. Report of [REDACTED] 8-12-41 Los Angeles
 3. Report of [REDACTED] 9-19-41 Washington, D. C.
 4. [REDACTED] 1-8-42 Los Angeles
 5. [REDACTED] 6-34-2 Los Angeles
 6. [REDACTED] 6-11-42 El Paso, Texas

Since the latest point of date of the above reports indicate the case is being carried in an active pending status, it is requested that the Criminal Division be furnished copies of all supplemental investigative reports or other data which has been acquired concerning either or both of the subjects.

Since there is a very definite indication that the subjects may be actually engaged in espionage activities, we are desirous of obtaining succeeding reports as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully,

354-899
ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3-9-97 BY SP5 JCP

WENDELL BERGE
Assistant Attorney General

100-372586
NOT RECORDED
82 MAR 1 1951

EXCLUSION ORDER FORM

Reference: 62-65880-208

Date of communication: JANUARY 12, 1943

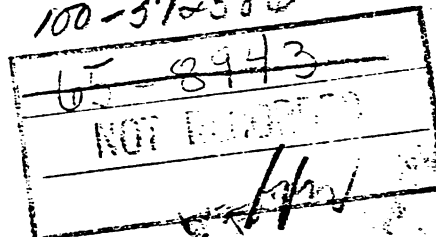
Name: THEODORE ^(E) ^(D) VON KARMAN

Considered for individual exclusion

~~Exclusion Order issued and served:~~

Place: LOS ANGELES FIELD OFFICE

354-894
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3-9-97 BY SP5 JCL/m



100-372386-347

COPY 2/26/51, MBS

EAB:mva

65-8943

December 22, 1942

104-372586

SAC, Los Angeles

RE: THEODORE VON KARMAN, was, et al.
ESPIONAGE (G)

Dear Sir:

The Bureau has recently received a request from Mr. Wendell Berge, Assistant Attorney General, that he be furnished with any information developed in the above-entitled case. A review of the Bureau file reflects that the latest investigative report submitted in this matter was the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated June 11, 1942, at El Paso, Texas. b7C

You are, therefore, instructed to expedite your investigation in this case and to submit a report reflecting all additional information developed by you in the very near future in order that the Department may be advised of the latest developments.

Yours truly,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

154-994
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 8-9-97 BY 853 JL/BJ

61 MAR 2 1951

COPY 2/26/51 MLS

EAB:fm

65-8943

June 28, 1943

SAC, Los Angeles

0 0
THEODORE VON KARMAN, with aliases, et al

b7C A review of the Bureau file in the above entitled case reflects that the last report submitted by your office was that of Special Agent [REDACTED], dated March 2, 1943, at Los Angeles, California.

It is desired that the remaining investigation in this case, particularly with respect to subject Goetz, be given closer attention in order that the matter may be brought up to date in the very near future.

354-894
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-9-97 BY SP5 JC/ryn

100-372586-1
NOT RECORDED
82 MAR 1 1951

51 MAR 2 1951

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☒ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☒ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

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Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of _____

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- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

100-372586 - Not Recorded 1-10-47

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA
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Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☐ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☐ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

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- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

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October 30, 1950

SAC, Los Angeles

Director, FBI

TODAR KARMAN
SECURITY MATTER - C
Bufile 100-372586 —

Re New York letter October 4, 1950.

EX-29
In view of the information contained in the enclosure to that letter, it is requested that you institute a thorough security investigation to determine whether this individual is a threat to the internal security of the country.

If he is employed at the California Institute of Technology, you should be guided by previous Bureau instructions with regard to investigations of persons connected with educational institutions. Should you determine that he is a Federal employee, you, of course, should cease investigation and so advise the Bureau.

b7c Your attention is called to the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated September 27, 1950, at Cleveland in the case captioned "William Perl, aka. William Mutterperl; Espionage - R." On pages 40, 45, 46, 47, 50, and 52 of that report a Ir. von Karman is mentioned. That individual may be identical with the subject of this memorandum.

LGD:kmb
kmb

354-894
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2-9-77 BY SP5 JCS/gm

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Nease _____
Gandy _____

52 NOV 8 1950
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COMM - FBI

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, New York

SUBJECT: TODAR KARMAN,
SECURITY MATTER (C)

DATE: 10/4/50

Transmitted herewith to the Bureau is an original and one photostatic copy of a "Summary of Information" dated September 12, 1950 from Headquarters, First Army, captioned "Possible Communist, California Institute of Technology".

Enclosed also for the Los Angeles Office is one photostatic copy of referenced summary.

It will be noted that according to the Summary, KARMAN joined the Hungarian Communist Party in 1918 and subsequently was transferred to the German Communist Party when he went to reside in that country.

KARMAN is said to have given several lectures at the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, Cal., and in 1945, was assigned to the position on the Research Staff of Army-sponsored guided missile project in Pasadena, a position which he reportedly retains to this date.

The Indices of this office contain no record of KARMAN, nor of [REDACTED] as mentioned in the summary.

This data is being transmitted to the Bureau and Los Angeles as a matter of information for whatever action is deemed advisable.

Enc. (2)
JND:KW
100-0

2CC-Los Angeles (Enc.)

372586

OCT 5 1950

EX-16

354-899
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DATE 5-21-97 BY SP5 JCB

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Section 552a

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

FROM : SAC, Los Angeles

SUBJECT: THEODORE VON KARMAN,
Aka Todar Karman,
SECURITY MATTER-C
Bufile 100-372586

DATE: 11-10-50

Rebulet to Los Angeles dated 10-30-50.

In New York letter to the Director dated October 4, 1950, the New York Office attached a photostatic copy of a "Summary of Information" dated September 12, 1950 from headquarters, First Army, captioned "Possible Communists, California Institute of Technology".

According to summary, TODAR KARMAN joined the Hungarian Communist Party in 1918 and subsequently was transferred to the German Communist Party when he went to reside in that country.

KARMAN is said to have given several lectures at the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, and in 1945 was assigned to a position on the Research Staff of the Army sponsored Guided Missile Project in Pasadena.

Reference Bureau letter instructs the Los Angeles Office to institute a security investigation to determine whether captioned individual is a threat to the internal security of the country.

Inquiry at the California Institute of Technology indicates that KARMAN is presently in Washington, D.C. and is maintaining an office in the Pentagon Building.

The Washington Field Office is requested to ascertain VON KARMAN's present employment and to notify the Los Angeles Office. Should you determine that he is a Federal employee you should cease investigation and so advise the Bureau.

RUC.

121-0-802

RKS:MWR

AMSD

CC: Washington Field Office

RECORDED - 19

NOV 13 1950

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5

354-894
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-21-97 BY SP5 JCG/ma

50 NOV 20 1950

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: December 18, 1950

FROM : SAC, Chicago

SUBJECT: Dr. THEODORE VON KARMAN
ESPIONAGE - R

G.I.R. - 1

On December 7, 1950, [redacted] telephonically contacted Special Agent [redacted] at which time he advised that he was passing through Chicago on his way to Washington, D.C. on business and that he formerly resided at [redacted] receiving mail at [redacted] advised that he had been previously employed [redacted]

[redacted] also advised that after the war he spent some time [redacted]

[redacted] advised that recently [redacted]

[redacted] also advised that [redacted]

Towards the end of the war, [redacted] had held a private meeting with VON KARMAN and that at this meeting VON KARMAN questioned him in regards to an Atomic Bomb having been exploded in the ocean. [redacted] brought up the question as to whether VON KARMAN in his capacity at Cal. Tech. should have had access to this information about the Atomic Bomb even though it was approximately one and one-half years before information regarding the Atomic Bomb had been revealed to the public.

[redacted] advised that the present whereabouts of [redacted] are unknown but that he knows [redacted] and believes that he might possibly be residing in Alabama.

MIT:ER

65-6

cc: Los Angeles

COPIES DESTROYED

78 APR 1951

RECORDED - 94

INDEXED - 94

EX-89

DEC 20 1950

INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5-9-97 BY 653JC

[REDACTED] advised that he knows of no one in the United States who has greater access to restricted material on guided missiles and rockets than what THEODORE VON KARMAN has and believes VON KARMAN to be still employed as a top aeronautical advisor in the U. S. Air Force.

The indices of the Chicago office reflect that THEODORE VON KARMAN was a subject of an espionage G investigation with the Los Angeles office as origin in 1941 along with subjects ALEXANDER GOETZ [REDACTED]

WILLIAM PERL, wa. William Mutterperl, subject of an espionage - R investigation in 1950 with Cleveland as office of origin, was a technical assistant to Dr. VON KARMAN at Columbia University in 1947 and 1948 and as such received classified material in behalf of VON KARMAN who was at that time the chairman of the U. S. Air Force Scientific Advisory Board and who may still hold this position.

It is here being noted that the Chicago indices were negative [REDACTED]

The above is submitted for information of the Bureau for whatever action deemed necessary.

/b7c b7D

Office Memorandum

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

GOVERNMENT

DATE: January 5, 1951

TO: Director, FBI

FROM: SAC, Cleveland

SUBJECT: DR. THEODORE VON KARMAN
ESPIONAGE - R

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

Re Chicago letter dated 12/18/50, Cleveland letter 8/7/50, and
Bureau letter 8/18/50 in the case entitled "WILLIAM PERL, was."

Referenced Chicago letter indicates VON KARMAN while at California
Institute of Technology had

This letter also noted that VON KARMAN was the subject of an Espionage
- G investigation conducted by the Bureau in 1941. In so far as
Cleveland files are concerned, all investigation was conducted prior
to the invasion of the Soviet Union by Germany and during the Russo-
German Peace Pact.

Referenced Cleveland and Bureau letters concern employees of Sverdrup
and Parcel, Consulting Engineers, St. Louis, Missouri, who were work-
ing on a project for VON KARMAN. subjects
of espionage investigations:
and WILLIAM PERL. In view of these numerous references to VON KARMAN
it is suggested the Bureau may desire to ascertain his present
activities and in so doing inquiry might be made of

The January 1, 1951, issue of "Time" magazine contains on pages 56
through 58 an article concerning VON KARMAN and his association with
the Aerojet Engineering Corporation.

Copies of the referenced Chicago letter are enclosed for New York
and Washington Field.

354-844 5-9-97
CLASSIFIED BY SP5 JC/09m
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X 6

JBO'D:CGP
65-2778

cc: Chicago
Los Angeles
New York (Enc.)
Washington Field (Enc.)
65-2726
65-2730

RECORDED

INDEXED

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA
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Section 552

Section 552a

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: January 17, 1951

FROM : SAC, Los Angeles

SUBJECT: DR. THEODORE VON KARMAN
ESPIONAGE - R354,994
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-21-97 BY SP5 JCP/pd 11-1
pd 5-1

Re Chicago let December 18, 1950.

As the Bureau is aware, Dr. VON KARMAN presently maintains his chairmanship of the United States Scientific Advisory Board and was last known to this office to be headquartered in the Pentagon Building, Washington, D. C.

Informant [REDACTED] is identical with [REDACTED] who was the subject of an Internal Security - X investigation in the Los Angeles Office. The Bureau file number for [REDACTED] #105-11668.

In view of VON KARMAN's present position no investigation concerning him is being initiated at this time by this office unless the Bureau directs otherwise.

JHH:MES
65-265cc: Chicago/
LA #100-31377

RECORDED - 114

INDEXED - 114

JAN 20 1951

28

EX-84

50 MAR 19 1951

FIVE

b7C

SAC, Los Angeles

January 23, 1951

Director, FBI

THEODORE VON KARMAN
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Re New York letter October 4, 1950, Los Angeles letter
November 10, 1950; Chicago letter December 18, 1950; Cleveland letter
January 5, 1951, and Washington Field Office teletype January 9, 1951.

The information contained in Bureau files concerning Dr.
Theodore Von Karman has been made available to OSI at Washington,
D. C. OSI has been requested to advise whether Von Karman is
presently employed by the Air Forces.

Upon receipt of information from OSI concerning Von Karman's
Federal employee status, the field will be instructed as to what
further investigation is desired in this matter.

- New York
Chicago
Cleveland
Washington Field Office

WAK:MH

8-8775

354-894

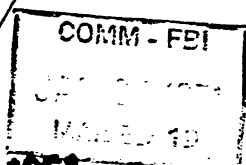
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DATE 5-21-77 BY SP5 JCP/PP

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Tele. Room _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____



62 FEB 7 1951

3 JAN 16 1951

TO:

The Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

FROM:

SY [REDACTED]

b7C

FULL NAME OF PERSON OR FIRM

von KARMAN, Theodore

DATE OF BIRTH

5/11/81

PLACE OF BIRTH

Budapest 19443

ALIASES AND NICKNAMES

RACE

SEX

ADDRESS

1501 So. Marengo, Pasadena 5, Calif.

OCCUPATION

Professor

EMPLOYER

TYPE OF INFORMATION DESIRED

- ☐ All information
☐ Derogatory

CITIZENSHIP STATUS

US

NAT. CERT. NO.

7/26/36 Calif.

MARITAL STATUS

NAME OF ORGANIZATION

HEADQUARTERS ADDRESS

REPLY

- ☐ Material attached
☐ No record
☐ No derogatory information
☐ Other

OSTENSIBLE PURPOSE

NAMES OF LEADERS OR SPONSORS OR AFFILIATED ORGANIZATION

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CEX

354 894
ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-12-97 BY SP5 JCD/m

SE 10 1/2

CHECKED BY

6685

February 24, 1951

You are referred to the information furnished to the Visa Division of the Department of State on July 18, 1942 in connection with the visa application of [REDACTED] (40-13556-4; 40-48862)

A further review of the records of this Bureau has disclosed that the Department of State has already been furnished at various times twenty-nine reports in the case entitled "Theodore von Karman, was., Alexander Goetz, was., [REDACTED] Espionage - G". (65-8943) b7c

Your attention is directed to those reports inasmuch as they appear to relate to the person inquired about. A further review of the records of this Bureau has indicated that consideration is being given to conducting an investigation of Theodore von Karman under the loyalty program pending a determination of his connection with the Federal Government. (100-372586)

The above information is furnished for your confidential use only, and is not to be distributed outside of your agency.

JEP:pan

RECEIVED
LOYALTY SECTION
FBI
MAR 9 11 27 AM '51
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

~~SECRET~~

Assistant Attorney General James M. McInerney
February 3, 1951
Director, FBI

THEODORE VON KARMAN
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

CONFIDENTIAL

Reference is made to your memorandum of January 18, 1951,
entitled [REDACTED] Espionage - IS, your
reference JMS:CKK:vb.
b7C

Particular reference is made to paragraph 6 of your
memorandum which requested advice as to whether the Dr. Theodore
Von Karman, under whom William Perl formerly worked at Columbia
University, is identical with Professor Theodore Von Karman of
the California Institute of Technology, who referred subject [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Your memorandum also requested
advice as to whether this Bureau has any information indicating
that the above matters are at all related.

Information in the files of this Bureau, furnished by
reliable informants, reflects that Dr. Theodore Von Karman, who
was a former superior of William Perl at Columbia University, has
been Director of the Guggenheim Aeronautical Research Laboratory
and Professor of Aeronautics at the California Institute of
Technology since the late 1930's. He has served in various
capacities with United States Government agencies.

According to the informants, Dr. Von Karman, as Director
of the Guggenheim Aeronautical Research Laboratory, played an
important part in causing the Air Force to set up the Jet
Propulsion Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology
in the early 1940's, and was an original stockholder in the
Aerojet Engineering Company of Azusa, California, a private
firm which was set up to manufacture pilot models developed at
the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Because of the fact that [REDACTED] during
a recent interview advised [REDACTED]

It appears that the Professor Theodore Von Karman who
introduced [REDACTED] is identical with
that individual who was a superior of William Perl at Columbia
University.

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65-59312

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DECLASSIFICATION 4-8-89
6/2/89
6/2/89

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP (S) OF CLASSIFICATION
DATE 4/6/89
61 MAR 1951

17-11-1
89-10
CLASSIFIED BY SP5 Jc/mv
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X/6
11/25/02

CLASS. BY SP4 GSK/JC
DATE OF REVIEW 11/25/02
b7C b7D

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b7c This Bureau has no information indicating that the cases of Perl and [REDACTED] are related other than that information which has been previously furnished you and that which is herein set out.

There is furnished for your additional information the results of a review of the files of this Bureau concerning the name Theodore Von Karman:

As of recent date, another Government agency that conducts intelligence investigations advised this Bureau that they were in possession of information concerning one Todor Karman. The information had been furnished them by letter from Vienna, Austria, dated April 1, 1948, and was originally furnished by a source evaluated as fairly reliable.

According to the source, Todor Karman joined the Hungarian Communist Party in 1918 while working as Assistant Professor of Physics at the Jozsef Nador, Technical University, Budapest, Hungary. In 1919, when the Communists seized power in Hungary, Karman was appointed Deputy Commissar of Cultural and Educational Affairs in charge of Higher Education. Karman continued to function in that capacity until late 1919 when Communists were routed by the Nationalist forces of Admiral Horthy. At that time, Karman was forced to flee from Hungary and escaped to Germany where he settled at Aachen. His membership was then transferred to the German Communist Party. Karman engaged in scientific work in Germany and was invited to lecture at the University of Aachen. In 1931 he received an invitation to lecture in the United States and was issued an entry visa to the United States from 1931 to 1933.

According to the source, Karman gave several lecture courses at the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, and returned each time to Aachen after the completion of the courses. After Hitler seized power in Germany, Karman applied for an extension of his permit of residence in the United States and was subsequently granted an extended residence permit. He then became a regular Professor at the California Institute of Technology and during World War II engaged in research work in Aerodynamics for the Army Air Forces.

The source also stated that in 1945, Karman was assigned to a position on the research staff of an Army-sponsored guided missile project at Pasadena, a position which the source believed

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he maintained as of 1948. The source further believed that Kerman covered up his Communist Party membership when first applying for an entry visa to the United States in 1931.

The Chicago Office of this Bureau has recently advised that [redacted] telephonically contacted that office while passing through the City of Chicago. [redacted] advised that

[redacted] He also advised that after the war [redacted]

[redacted] recalled the fact that [redacted]

[redacted] also reported that at the end of the war he had spoken with [redacted] who advised [redacted] that he had held a private meeting with Dr. Von Kerman and during this meeting Dr. Von Kerman questioned [redacted] regarding the atomic bomb. According to [redacted] his conversation with [redacted] brought up the question as to whether Dr. Von Kerman should have had access to atomic information at a time which was approximately one and one-half years before information regarding the bomb had been revealed to the public.

The present address of [redacted] is unknown; however, he stated that he had formerly resided at [redacted] and had received mail at [redacted] advised that he believes [redacted] presently resides in Alabama. Pertinent reports

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have been furnished you in connection with the investigations entitled [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Internal Security - R. [REDACTED]

b7C [REDACTED] During an investigation of [REDACTED] conducted by this Bureau in 1945, reliable informants advised that on January 9, March 7, March 22, April 3, April 24 and 25, 1945, Dr. Theodore Von Karman, who was then associated with the Army Air Force, contacted [REDACTED]. The investigation of [REDACTED] was based on information furnished by other reliable informants to the effect that [REDACTED] was in frequent contact with members of the Soviet Embassy in Washington and the Soviet Consulate in New York. The informants also advised that [REDACTED] had been associated with Russian War Relief and the National Council for American Soviet Friendship. At that time [REDACTED] (S)

b1 [REDACTED] In 1947 when interviewed in connection with an investigation being conducted by this Bureau, Dr. Theodore Von Karman stated that he was then Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Commanding General of the Army Air Force and a holder of the Medal of Merit.

In the January 1, 1951, issue of "Time" magazine, a photograph of Dr. Von Karman appears, together with an article which relates how he and four associates originally invested \$8,700 and established the Aerojet Engineering Company of Azusa, California, as a result of Von Karman's knowledge that rockets would be an important weapon. The article states that the Aerojet Company now has a \$25,000,000 backlog of orders and is planning a new \$6,000,000 plant.

The present address of Dr. Theodore Von Karman is reported to be Scientific Advisory Board, Office of the Director, Research and Development, Deputy Chief of Staff, U. S. Air Force, The Pentagon.

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~~TEX 012~~

There are attached for your additional information copies of the following reports which were made in connection with an investigation of which Dr. Theodore Von Karman was carried as a subject:

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated May 7, 1940, at Los Angeles;

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated August 12, 1941, at Los Angeles;

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated October 6, 1941, at Cincinnati, Ohio;

b7C

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated June 3, 1942, at Los Angeles;

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated July 30, 1943, at Los Angeles.

Pertinent information concerning Dr. Von Karman has been furnished the Director of Special Investigations, Department of the Air Force, with the request that that agency advise whether Dr. Von Karman is presently employed by the Department of the Air Force. That agency was also requested to advise whether their files contain any information which will substantiate or disprove the recent allegations received concerning Dr. Von Karman.

You will be furnished any additional pertinent information received or developed concerning this matter.

Enclosures

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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- ☐ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☐ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☐ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☐ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)

- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request or the subject of your request is listed in the title only.

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Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

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100-372586-7 pg 1

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **LOS ANGELES, CALIF.**

FILE NO. **65-265.**

REPORT MADE AT LOS ANGELES, CALIF.	DATE WHEN MADE 8/12/41	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7/24/41; 8/2, 4, 6/41	REPORT MADE BY W. H. C. H.
TITLE "CHANGED" THEODORE VON HARMAN, with aliases, Theodor Von Harman, Theodor De Harman; ALEXANDER GOETZ, with aliases, Carl Goetz, Alexander Carl Goetz, Karl Wilhelm Alexander Gustav Goetz;			CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - G
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Information received from that Subject GOETZ is a leading agent in his district for Fortra, Inc. GOETZ is stated to have been very friendly with the German Consul at Los Angeles and with a Japanese, and to receive many letters from Germany. Subject VON HARMAN is stated to have lost an air corps identification card issued to him by the Material Division, United States Air Corps, Wright Field, Ohio, which card will allow him to enter practically any airplane plant or defense industry, it is said. Records of Immigration and Naturalization at Los Angeles reflect VON HARMAN born May 11, 1881, Budapest, Hungary, entered the United States at New York City October 7, 1920, and became a citizen July 24, 1936, at Los Angeles. No criminal record at Los Angeles for either Subject GOETZ or VON HARMAN. Credit records of these Subjects checked, and no additional information obtained, with the exception that GOETZ is reported to have investments and residences in Germany. Results of mail cover on Subject GOETZ set out. Custodial Detention memorandum submitted as to Subject GOETZ. - P - REFERENCE: Report by Special Agent Los Angeles, 6/26/41. DETAILS: <u>AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA:</u> The title of this case is being changed to include the aliases of Subject VON HARMAN, THEODOR VON HARMAN, THEODOR DE HARMAN.			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3- Bureau 2- Washington Field 2- Cincinnati 2- Boston 3- Los Angeles		1- 7 8943-43 AUG 18 1941 FIVE	
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Section 552

Section 552a

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"5. They are also friendly with a Japanese, apparently someone of high position. They have entertained him at dinner in the home and have taken him out to dinner. His name is not known to informant, although she has tried to learn it.

"6. They entertain many callers, apparently all German, who stay until one or two o'clock in the morning. Sometimes there are eight or ten of them at a time, and there is much conversation.

"7. criticize President ROOSEVELT and his policy toward Germany, and they were furious about what was said by him during his last radio speech.

"8. These people give out America First literature."

Through a confidential source it was ascertained that telephone number is listed to Glendale. It was first ascertained from telephone operator that this phone had been temporarily disconnected. Inquiry among the neighbors at the above address brought forth the information that gone away for the summer and would probably not return until the first of September. An attempt will be made at that time to contact

A letter dated May 28, 1941, was received Beverly Hills, California, which stated that Professor VON KARMAN, head of the Aeronautical Department of California Tech., is in a position to commit murder when it comes to secrets of the airplane industry. VON KARMAN is a German by birth, and his sister, a spinster, lives with him. He stated that she has declared herself from time to time to be a Nazi and doesn't even try to cover up.

A memorandum in the file reflects that on July 17, 1941, telephonically advised Special Agent that Rooms 801-802 in the Savoy Hotel, Los Angeles, occupied by Dr. THEODORE VON KARMAN, had been burglarized on July 13, 1941, at which time a great deal of jewelry had been taken, as well as an air corps identification card issued to Dr. VON KARMAN by the Material Division, United States Air Corps, Wright Field, Ohio. stated that this card would allow VON KARMAN to enter practically any airplane plant or defense industry.

At the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, Los Angeles, Petition for Naturalization No. 50558 reflected the following: THEODORE VON KARMAN, 1501 Marengo Avenue, Pasadena, occupation, Professor, born 5/11/81 Budapest, Hungary, race, Magyar, marital status, single, last foreign residence, Aachen, Germany, came to the United States from Cherbourg, France, under the name THEODORE KARMAN and entered at the port of New York October 7, 1930, via the S. S. MAJESTIC. Witnesses on the petition were

He was admitted as a citizen July 24, 1936. The file further reflected that he owns his own home and has an account in the Pasadena First National Trust and Savings Bank. It was reflected that his mother, the former HELENE KONN, and his sister, JOSEPHINE DE KARMAN, reside with him. It was evident from the file that both the names VON KARMAN and DE KARMAN are used.

A memorandum in the file dated October 25, 1932, regarding THEODOR VON HARIAN was noted as follows: "Applicant presents German passport number 33558 in his name notated; no quota, immigration visa 1601, September 24, 1930; Professor THEODOR HARIAN, American Consulate, Budapest, admitted New York 4/9/30, Par. 2-Section 3-Act of 1924, six months; was admitted New York 9/29/31 upon presentation of re-entry permit number 704909; applicant's first entry was in October, 1926, at New York via S. S. MAURITANIA, from Cherbourg, France. His second entry was in October, 1928, at Montreal, Canada, by rail. He is unable to give the port of entry upon the Canadian border. His third entry was at New York via the S. S. ILE DE FRANCE about in October, 1930, from Cherbourg, France. The applicant states that he was an exchange professor upon his first entries."

VOX HATHAN'S absences since October 7, 1930, are given as follows: Left May, 1931, from New York via the S. S. ILE DE FRANCE for Germany and returned September, 1931, same port and boat. Left November, 1932, from New York via the S. S. BREMEN for France and returned December, 1932, entering at New York via the S. S. EUROPA. Left June, 1934, and returned July, 1934, via the S. S. CLERMONT from England. Left September, 1935, from New York via the S. S. CONTI GRANDE for Italy, returning in October, 1935, at New York via the S. S. CONTI DE SAVOI.

Special Agent _____ was advised by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office and the Los Angeles City Police Department that their respective departments had no criminal record for either Subject VON HARTMAN or GOETZ.

The Los Angeles Retail Merchants Credit Association's information concerning THEODORE VON HESLER was as follows: Age, 54 in 1936; single; professor at California Tech., also employed by Metropolitan Water District, 306 West 3rd Street, Los Angeles, Director of Cuggenheim Aeronautical Laboratory at California Institute of Technology. In 1936 elected honorable Fellow in Institute of Aeronautical Sciences, one of world's foremost aeronautical experts. Credit fair.

A credit report for Subject GALTZ gave his age as 40 in 1940 and reflected that he was stated to be employed in the California Institute of Technology as an associate professor in physics. He was stated to earn \$3600 per year and to have a

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Section 552

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UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE:

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.:

* Will at the United States Patent Office review the application of Subject GOETZ for a patent for his liquid sterilizer, it being noted that this patent claim is Serial #317,606 on file in Division 56, Room 4735, United States Patent Office, Washington, D. C.

THE BOSTON FIELD DIVISION:

AT BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS:

Will, at the State Street Trust Company, ascertain the nature of Subject ALEXANDER GOETZ' transactions with this bank, noting that on July 22, 1941, he received a letter from the bank post-marked July 18.

THE CINCINNATI FIELD DIVISION:

AT DAYTON, OHIO:

Will, at Wright Field in the Material Division, United States Air Corps, ascertain why an air corps identification card was issued to THEODORE VON HAFEN and will determine what his connection is, if any, with the air corps.

THE LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION:

AT GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA:

Will, contact in order
to make an appointment to interview

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: January 29, 1951

FROM : *JH* SAC, WFO354-894
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-21-97 BY SP5 JCD/SUBJECT: Dr. THEODORE VON KARMAN
Aka, TODAR KARMAN
SECURITY MATTER - C
Bufile 100-372586Re Los Angeles letter to Director November 10, 1950, and
Cleveland letter Director January 5, 1951. - *u-y*

On November 17, 1950, [REDACTED] G-2, M. D. W., advised that Dr. THEODORE VON KARMAN maintains an office in the Pentagon. This office is room 4-C-340. His phone extension is 53797. Inquiry at his office by [REDACTED] revealed that he was said to be employed by the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board. He was at the time in Europe, apparently for the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board, and was expected back about December 1, 1950. [REDACTED] further advised however that although it would appear that he was an employee of the Air Force, Air Force Personnel records show he was terminated with the Air Force on January 3, 1946. [REDACTED] was unable after repeated efforts to procure any more definite information concerning VON KARMAN.

After much delay a check of the office of Security and Intelligence of the Air Force revealed that that office had information available concerning VON KARMAN. A check of this record revealed that office had information concerning VON KARMAN under the caption Re: [REDACTED] This one page memo shows that a [REDACTED] of Immigration and Naturalization Service called on September 15, 1950, at 2:25 p. m. and gave information to a [REDACTED] apparently of OSI. [REDACTED] is reported as advising that Dr. THEODORE VON KARMAN, of the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board, had been attempting to contact [REDACTED] Dr. VON KARMAN stated he was leaving for Europe and that it was therefore very necessary that he be permitted to talk with [REDACTED] The Immigration authorities in Los Angeles elected to refuse Dr. VON KARMAN'S request.

JEH:FLH
100-22923cc: Los Angeles (Air Mail)
Cleveland
Chicago
New York

G.I.R.-7

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EX-125

58 - GENERAL

b7C

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APR 5 1963

50 MAR 1

100-372586-8

WFO 100-22923

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
This report was signed by [REDACTED] C.I.D.,
O.S.I.

On January 17, 1951, Agent [REDACTED] C.I.D., O.S.I.,
advised that he had definitely determined that Dr. VON KARMAN is presently
an employee of the U. S. Air Force. He is presently in Pasadena, California,
but Agent [REDACTED] was refused information as to his exact whereabouts.
VON KARMAN is expected to return to Washington, D. C., about February 1, 1951.

In absence of instructions to the contrary no further inquiry
regarding this matter is contemplated by this office.

- RUC -

67C

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
VIA LIAISON

DATE: January 23, 1951

100-372586-9
Director of Special Investigations
Inspector General
Department of the Air Force
The Pentagon
Washington 25, D. C.

FROM: John Edgar Hoover - Director - Federal Bureau of Investigation

SUBJECT: THEODORE VON KARMAN
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

354894

DECLASSIFIED BY

SP5 JC/pjn

ON 5-21-97

There is furnished for your confidential information the following concerning captioned individual. Reliable sources advise that Dr. Theodore Von Karman presently maintains an office at the Pentagon in connection with employment by the Air Force.

As of recent date, another Government agency that conducts intelligence investigations advised this Bureau that they were in possession of information concerning one Todar Karman. The information had been furnished them by letter from Vienna, Austria, dated April 1, 1948, and was originally furnished by a source evaluated as fairly reliable.

According to the source, Todar Karman joined the Hungarian Communist Party in 1918 while working as Assistant Professor of Physics at the Jozsef Nador, Technical University, Budapest, Hungary. In 1919, when the Communists seized power in Hungary, Karman was appointed Deputy Commissar of Cultural and Educational Affairs in charge of Higher Education. Karman continued to function in that capacity until late 1919 when Communists were routed by the Nationalist forces of Admiral Horthy. At that time, Karman was forced to flee from Hungary and escaped to Germany where he settled at Aachen. His membership was then transferred to the German Communist Party. Karman engaged in scientific work in Germany and was invited to lecture at the University of Aachen. In 1931 he received an invitation to lecture in the United States and was issued an entry visa to the United States from 1931 to 1933.

WAK:MH
Enclosures

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WAK

According to the source, Karman gave several lecture courses at the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, and returned each time to Aachen after the completion of the courses. After Hitler seized power in Germany, Karman applied for an extension of his permit of residence in the United States and was subsequently granted an extended residence permit. He then became a regular Professor at the California Institute of Technology and during World War II engaged in research work in Aerodynamics for the Army Air Forces.

The source also stated that in 1945, Karman was assigned to a position on the research staff of an Army-sponsored guided missile project at Pasadena, a position which the source believed he maintained as of 1948. The source further believed that Karman covered up his Communist Party membership when first applying for an entry visa to the United States in 1931.

The Chicago Office of this Bureau has recently advised that one [REDACTED] telephonically contacted that office while passing through the City of Chicago. [REDACTED] advised that he had been [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He also advised that after the war [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] recalled the fact that he had read recent [REDACTED]

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[redacted] also reported that at the end of the war he had spoken with [redacted] who advised [redacted] that he had held a private meeting with Dr. Von Karman and during this meeting Dr. Von Karman questioned [redacted] regarding the atomic bomb. According to [redacted] his conversation with [redacted] brought up the question as to whether Dr. Von Karman should have had access to atomic information at a time which was approximately one and one half years before information regarding the bomb had been revealed to the public.

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b7D

The present address of [redacted] is unknown; however, he stated that he had formerly resided at [redacted] and had received mail at [redacted] advised that he believes [redacted] and presently resides in Alabama. Pertinent reports have been furnished you in connection with the investigations entitled [redacted] Internal Security - R."

There are attached for your additional information copies of the following reports which were made in connection with an investigation of which Dr. Theodore Von Karman was carried as a subject:

- (1). Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated May 7, 1940, at Los Angeles.
- (2). Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated August 12, 1941, at Los Angeles.
- (3). Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated October 6, 1941, at Cincinnati, Ohio.
- (4). Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated June 3, 1942, at Los Angeles.
- (5). Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated July 30, 1943, at Los Angeles.

b7C

Your attention is called to the fact that the recent allegations received which apparently refer to Dr. Theodore Von Karman have not been verified by independent investigation of this Bureau. The information is not to be disseminated outside your Agency.

It is requested that you advise whether Dr. Theodore Von Karman is presently employed by the Air Force in order that a determination may be made as to further investigation based on the information furnished you. It is also requested that you advise whether your files contain any information which will substantiate or disprove the information furnished you in this letter.

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Mohr _____
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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : A. H. BELMONT
 FROM : C. E. HENNRICH
 SUBJECT: THEODORE VON KARMAN
 INTERNAL SECURITY - R

~~SECRET~~

DATE: January 22, 1951

b7c

334,844 6-13-97
 CLASSIFIED BY SP5 JC/1071
 DECLASSIFY ON: 25X/6

PURPOSE:

Subject born May 11, 1881, Hungary, entered United States 1930 and naturalized 1936. Since entry has been employed as Director of Guggenheim Aeronautical Research Laboratory at California Institute of Technology. As one of World's leading Aerodynamicists, has served as consultant to National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics and in 1947 was Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Commanding General of the Army Air Forces and the holder of a medal of Merit.

Subject presently maintains offices in the Pentagon with Air Force Scientific Advisory Board although Air Force personnel records indicate his employment was terminated in 1946. Subject has had access to material of the highest classification.

Recent report received from G-2 reflects that in 1948 a CIC investigation in Europe determined information from a source "fairly reliable - possibly true" that one Todan Karman, who is apparently identical with subject, was Commissar of Higher Education in Hungary after the Communist uprising in 1919. According to the source, Karman fled to Germany the same year and continued as a member of the German Communist Party. Bufiles reflect subject investigated in 1941 on basis of report that German aliens at Cal. Tech had access to restricted area. No subversive activity established.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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It is recommended that information in Bufiles re subject be furnished OSI by letter and that other information be furnished orally. It is also recommended that a loyalty investigation of subject be conducted in the event it is established that he is a Government employee and if not, that an Internal Security - R investigation be conducted.

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 100-372586
 Attachments

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 [Signature]

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BACKGROUND:

Personal History

INS records checked August, 1941, by the Los Angeles Office and reflect Theodor Von Karman was born May 11, 1881, Budapest, Hungary and entered the United States from Cherbourg, France, under the name Theodor Karman at the Port of New York on October 7, 1930. His occupation was stated as professor and his last foreign residence, Aachen, Germany. He was admitted to citizenship in 1936. Prior to 1930, Von Karman had entered the United States as an exchange professor in 1926, 1928, and 1930. (65-8943-43)

Education

- 1902 - Graduated University of Budapest
- 1908 - Graduated from Gottengin University
- 1929 - Received Dr. of Engineering degree, University of Berlin
- 1937 - Received Dr. of Science degree, University of Brussels

Employment

- 1913 to 1934 - Professor of Mechanics and Aerodynamics University of Aachen
- 1924 to 1929 - Consultant and advisor for airplane corporations throughout the world
- 1927 to 1929 - Kawanishi airplane works, Japan
- 1939 - General Electric Company
- 1935 - 1940 - U. S. Bureau of Reclamation
- 1930 - 1941 - Director of the Guggenheim Aeronautical Research Laboratory and Professor of Aeronautics, Cal. Tech.
(G-2 investigation October 26, 1941
Bufile 65-8943-41)

b7c Bufiles reflect Von Karman has apparently continued as Director of the Guggenheim Aeronautical Research Laboratory and Professor at Cal. Tech since 1941; that he was special advisor to [REDACTED] the Air Force in 1939; has served as consultant to various firms; and has held important positions with the Air Force and NACA. In 1947, when interviewed in connection with an investigation, Von Karman stated he was then Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Commanding General of the Army Air Forces and holder of the medal of Merit. His present address is believed to be Scientific Advisory Board, Office of the Director of Research and Development, Deputy Chief of Staff, U. S. Air Force, the Pentagon.

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The Air Force has advised that Karman is employed as captioned above but, in view of Karman's other work, it is not known if he is employed within the purview of Executive Order 9835 or if he is serving only in some Consultant capacity.

The Air Force has advised its files contain no information concerning the above-mentioned allegations but that all available background information concerning Todar Karman is being obtained from Europe, which information will be made available to the Bureau.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Liaison Section ascertain from the Department of the Air Force if Von Karman is an employee of the U. S. Government within the purview of Executive Order 9835, and, if so, it should be determined whether any action is desired concerning Von Karman under Executive Order 9835.

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In the January 1, 1951, issue of "Time" magazine, a photograph of Dr. Von Karman appears together with an article which relates how Von Karman with four associates invested \$8700 and established the Aerojet Engineering Corporation of Azusa, California. As a result of Von Karman's knowledge that rockets would be an important weapon, the article states that the Aerojet Company now has a \$25,000,000 backlog of orders and is planning a new \$6,000,000 plant. It further states that much of Aerojet's experimental work is secret and that the firm presently has 1600 employees.

Recent Allegations received concerning Von Karman

By letter dated October 4, 1950, the New York Office furnished the Bureau and Los Angeles information which had been furnished them by G-2 who advised that in view of a news article indicating Bureau interest toward scientists of questionable political tendencies at Cal. Tech they were forwarding the information which had been extracted from their case on [REDACTED] (Bufiles negative) b7C

The extracted information reflected that CIC in Vienna, Austria, had forwarded a letter dated April 1, 1948, which contained information concerning Todar Karman that had been received from a source rated as "fairly reliable - possibly true." According to the source, Todar Karman joined the Hungarian Communist Party in 1918 while working as Assistant Professor of Physics at a Technical University in Budapest, Hungary. In 1919, when the Communists seized power in Hungary, Karman was appointed Deputy Commissar of Cultural and Educational Affairs in charge of Higher Education. He functioned in that capacity until late 1919 when the Communists were routed by the Nationalist forces of Admiral Horthy. According to the source, Karman then fled to Germany where he settled at Aachen and his membership was transferred to the German Communist Party. Karman then lectured at the University of Aachen and in 1931 began trips to the United States to give short lecture courses at the California Institute of Technology. After Hitler seized power in Germany, Karman took up permanent residence in the United States and became a regular Professor at Cal. Tech. During the war, Karman engaged in research work in Aerodynamics for the U. S. Army Air Forces and in 1945 was assigned to a position on the research staff of an army-sponsored guided missile project, a position which he retains to this date. It was the source's belief that Karman covered up his Communist Party membership when applying for a visa to the United States in 1931.

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On the basis of the foregoing, Los Angeles was requested to institute a thorough security investigation and was advised that the investigation should be ceased and the Bureau advised if it is determined that Theodore Von Karman, whom the information apparently related to, is a Federal employee. By letter dated November 10, 1950, Los Angeles advised that Von Karman presently maintains an office in the Pentagon and requested Washington Field Office to determine his Federal employee status.

On December 18, 1950, the Chicago Office advised that [REDACTED] telephonically contacted that office and stated that he had been [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] also reported that [REDACTED] had told him that Von Karman has questioned [REDACTED] concerning the atomic bomb before information had been revealed to the public.

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By teletype dated January 9, 1951, WFO advised that Von Karman maintains an office in the Pentagon with the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board but that Air Force personnel records show he terminated employment January 3, 1946. WFO is attempting to clarify Von Karman's status.

Review of Bufiles re Von Karman

(1). Bureau Investigation

During the early 1940's Von Karman was one of several subjects of an espionage investigation which was based on an allegation that foreigners, including Von Karman, had access to a classified area at Cal Tech. Investigation of Von Karman failed to show that he was disloyal and revealed that the classified area was adequately guarded. (65-3943 Serial 2)

In September, 1940, the investigation was reopened on the basis of an allegation received that one of the subjects was pro-Nazi. The entire case file is devoted to the investigation of that subject with the exception of some background data determined regarding Von Karman and information furnished

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the Bureau [REDACTED] that Von Karman's Auto Club membership card was found on the person of [REDACTED] Japanese national. at the time [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The Japanese, when questioned regarding the card, would only state that he was a friend of Von Karman's. Other information which appears in the file reflects that [REDACTED] had stated that a Japanese, T. Kodama, was Von Karman's gardner even though he was a structural engineer by profession. [REDACTED] stated that Von Karman brought home blue prints from Cal. Tech and that the prints disappeared for days at a time and that she had seen Kodama looking through Von Karman's work and at the blue prints. The file reflects that Von Karman was, at this time, a consultant for the National Defense Research Committee at Cal. Tech. (100-64877 - 65-8943)

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(2) [REDACTED] (S)

[REDACTED] (S)

(3) [Contact with [REDACTED] (S) (u) (S)]

[Investigation [REDACTED] was conducted by the Bureau in 1945. at which time [REDACTED]

b7c [The investigation reflected that [REDACTED] was in frequent contact with members of the Soviet Embassy in Washington and the Soviet Consulate in New York. He had also been associated with Russian War Relief and the National Council for American Soviet Friendship. The investigation further reflected that on January 9, March 7, March 22, April 3, April 24, and 25, 1945, [REDACTED] was in contact with Dr. Theodore Von Karman who was then associated with the Army Air Forces.] (S) (u) (100-292259 Serials 45-84-109 and 118)

(4). Association with [REDACTED]

As you are aware, a reliable informant of the Los Angeles Office has advised that [REDACTED] were members of the

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Communist Party in Pasadena, California, in 1939. A deportation hearing concerning [REDACTED] is pending at Los Angeles as a result of information determined in connection [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] at Cal Tech who, in 1936, became interested in jet propulsion as a military weapon. The group [REDACTED] engaged in private research at Cal. Tech under the direct supervision of Von Karman. In 1939, Von Karman, as special advisor to [REDACTED] caused the Air Force to set up the Committee for Air Corps Research of the National Academy of Sciences to sponsor the development of rockets. Subsequently, a special laboratory was set up under the direct sponsorship of the Guggenheim Aeronautical Laboratory at Cal. Tech and became known as the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

b7C
Under Air Force sponsorship the laboratory grew and in 1942 the Aerojet Engineering Company was formed to manufacture the pilot models. [REDACTED]

By letter dated October 30, 1950, Los Angeles furnished a transcript of a conversation which took place between Von Karman and [REDACTED] on September 15, 1950. The conversation was the result of a telephone call placed by Von Karman from his Pentagon Office [REDACTED]

(100-164610 Serial 8 65-58574 Serial 5 and 122)

(5). Possible Association with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is presently the subject of an Internal Security - R investigation based on information furnished the Bureau Liaison representative in England. [REDACTED]

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CIA letter dated
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Dunn and Bradstreet records New York City, reflect that [REDACTED] the Institution for Muscle Research, 270 Park Avenue, New York City, and that Von Karman is on the Scientific Advisory Board of that institution.

(40-84216 Serial 11)

(6). Association with William Perl

As you are aware, Perl is the subject of an espionage investigation based on his associations with Julius Rosenberg, Morton Sobell, and Joel Barr. [REDACTED]

b1

Bureau investigation of Perl reflects that he was Special Assistant to Von Karman in New York City in 1947 and 1948 and as such was entitled to confidential material of the NACA which was furnished Von Karman. On July 22, 1947, Von Karman, while in Paris, forwarded a letter to NACA which requested NACA to send information to Perl who was his technical assistant. In April, 1948, Perl, using Von Karman's stationery, requested NACA to furnish a document entitled "Index of NACA Classified Publications." The documents are described as a compilation of titles of material and papers helpful in determining the advanced areas of studies that have been explored in Aeronautical Research. During the latter part of 1950, Von Karman was interviewed regarding his association with Perl and stated that it was almost entirely related to his lectures at Columbia University and Perl's studies. Von Karman stated he had no reason to question Perl's loyalty. Perl was also employed by Von Karman for a brief period at St. Louis on unclassified research for a private concern in 1947.

(65-59312 Serial 5

65-58236 Serial 304)

b7C

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(1). That the attached letter be furnished OSI advising them of recent allegations received concerning Von Karman.

(2). That Liaison orally advise OSI as follows concerning William Perl and his employment under Von Karman:

William Perl is the subject of a Bureau pending espionage investigation which has determined that he was a classmate at the

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College of the City of New York of Julius Rosenberg, Morton Sobell, and Joel Barr. Perl is known to have continued his association with these persons after leaving CCNY through meetings at an apartment which Perl rented in New York City. The Rosenberg espionage parallel is known to have been comprised principally of Rosenberg's fellow classmates at CCNY. Rosenberg and Sobell are presently in custody in New York City awaiting trial on espionage charges. Barr left this country in January, 1948, and is strongly suspected of having been a Soviet espionage agent. It is noted that on July 23, 1950, Vivian Glassman, the former fiancée of Joel Barr, visited Perl in Cleveland, Ohio, furnished him instructions and offered him \$2,000 to leave the United States and to flee to Europe by way of Mexico. At the time Perl informed the Bureau regarding this incident he denied he had accepted the money and claimed no knowledge as to the purpose of the contact or the identity of the person who sent him the instructions. It is recalled that David Greenglass has stated that Rosenberg gave him similar instructions and furnished him with \$5,000 to leave the country. The investigation of Perl and Glassman is being continued. During the investigation, it has been ascertained that Perl worked for Von Karman in 1947 when Von Karman was a special consultant for Sverdrup and Parcel on an unclassified Aeronautical Research contract. It has also been determined that in 1947 and 1948 Perl worked under Von Karman at Columbia University during which time Perl had access to classified NACA material which was sent Von Karman. Also that Perl requested certain classified material from NACA using Von Karman's stationery. It is noted that Von Karman has been interviewed both as a reference for Perl and in connection with Perl's investigation. He advised his association with Perl was almost entirely related to lectures at Columbia University and Perl's studies there. Von Karman states he had no reason to question Perl's loyalty. There has been determined no reason during the investigation to believe that Von Karman is aware of any subversive activity in which Perl may have engaged.

It is also recommended that Liaison orally furnish OSI the information in items 2, 3, and 5 hereinbefore set out in this memorandum.

(3). That upon receipt of information that Von Karman is or is not employed by the U. S. Government, the following investigation of him be conducted:

a. If Von Karman is employed by the Government, a loyalty investigation of him be conducted on the basis of recent allegations.

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b. If he is not employed by the Government, it is recommended that a discreet Internal Security - R investigation of Von Karman be conducted for the purpose of verifying or disproving the allegation that he was a former member of the Hungarian and German Communist Party. The investigation will be requested through G-2 who furnished the original allegation. Investigation of Von Karman's present activities and contacts will be confined to the use of reliable sources and discreet investigative techniques such as mail cover and toll call checks. In view of Von Karman's position, it is not recommended that open inquiries concerning him be made except through established sources until such time as his membership in the Communist Party has been established.

OSI is investigating Euseb

(4). That the attached letter be sent the field advising them of the action taken and informing them that they will be requested to conduct the appropriate investigation after Von Karman's Federal employee status has been determined.

*Adm
replied
11/1/54*

John Doe

~~SECRET~~

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : A. H. BELMONT *ab*
 FROM : C. E. HENNRICH *CH*
 SUBJECT: THEODORE VON KARMAN
 INTERNAL SECURITY - R

~~SECRET~~

DATE: February 5, 1951

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PURPOSE:

OSI advises that Von Karman is presently employed by the Air Force as Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board, Room 4C-340, Pentagon. Von Karman is considered one of the world's leading aerodynamicists and has been employed at California Institute of Technology and United States Air Force since late 1930's. A recent report received from G-2 alleges that Todar Karman who is apparently identical with Theodore Von Karman, was Commissar of Higher Education in Hungary in 1919, and later a member of the German Communist Party. Bufiles reflect subject has been associated in aeronautical research with espionage subjects. However, no information has been developed that his association was connected with their espionage activity. It is recommended that this matter be referred to the Loyalty Section in view of subject's status as a government employee.

BACKGROUND:

Reference is made to my memorandum dated January 22, 1951, which furnished in detail information recently received concerning subject and information developed during the course of investigations involving persons who have been associated with subject in aeronautical research.

My memorandum advised that subject was born May 11, 1881, Hungary; entered the United States in 1930; and was naturalized in 1936. Since his entry into the United States, subject has been employed as Director of the Guggenheim Aeronautical Research Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology and as one of the world's leading aerodynamicists. He has served as a consultant to the National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics and as Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Commanding General of the Army Air Force. He is also a holder of the Medal of Merit.

My memorandum advised that the Bureau had received a recent report from G-2 which reflects that in 1948, a CIC investigation

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in Europe determined information from a source "fairly reliable - possibly true" that one Todar Karman, who is apparently identical with subject was Commissar of Higher Education in Hungary after the Communist uprising in 1919. According to the source, Karman fled to Germany the same year and continued as a member of the German Communist Party. He then came to the United States where he associated as a Professor with the California Institute of Technology and engaged in research work for the United States Army Air Force.

My memorandum noted that Bufiles reflect that in 1941, subject was investigated on the basis of a report that German aliens at Caltech had access to restricted areas. No subversive activity was established. [REDACTED] b1

(S)

Bufiles further reflect that subject has associated in aeronautical research [REDACTED] b1

b7C

[REDACTED] It has also (S) been recently developed that [REDACTED] b1

[REDACTED] Perl advised that he had taken the documents in order that he might have the benefit of information contained therein in preparing a necessary paper [REDACTED] b7C

[REDACTED] Perl stated he was introduced to [REDACTED] by Dr. Von Karman. He emphasized that [REDACTED] did not ask him for classified information.]

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No evidence has been determined during the above investigations that Von Karman is engaged in espionage activity.

My memorandum recommended the furnishing of pertinent information in Bufiles to OSI with a request that OSI advise if subject is employed by that Agency. It also recommended that in the event subject is employed by OSI that a Loyalty investigation of him be conducted and in the event he is not so employed, that the Bureau institute a discreet Internal Security - R investigation.

By letter dated January 30, 1951, OSI advised that subject is presently employed by the Air Force as Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board, Room 4C-340, Pentagon. They also advised that an electronic communication had been dispatched to Europe requesting all available background data pertaining to Todar Karman who is apparently identical with subject.

By memorandum dated February 3, 1951, pertinent information concerning Von Karman was furnished the Department in answer to a request by the Department as to whether the Bureau had any information indicating that the cases of [REDACTED] Perl were related and whether the Von Karman in those cases was identical. b7C

RECOMMENDATION:

In accordance with the information set out in my memorandum of January 22, 1951, and in view of the fact that no evidence of espionage activity on the part of Von Karman has been developed in the various Bureau cases in which his name is mentioned, it is recommended that this matter be referred to the Loyalty Section for their consideration as to whether a Loyalty investigation of Von Karman should be conducted in view of his employment with the United States Government.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. A. H. Belmont

FROM : C. H. Stanley

SUBJECT: THEODORE VON KARMAN

Chairman

Scientific Advisory Board

Department of the Air Force

Washington, D.C.

LOYALTY OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

DATE: February 17, 1951

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 Rosen _____
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 Harbo _____
 Belmont _____
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 Gandy _____

PURPOSE:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
 WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

To request that the Liaison Section ascertain from the Department of the Air Force if Von Karman is an employee of the U. S. Government within the purview of Executive Order 9835, and, if so, it should be determined whether any action is desired concerning Von Karman under the provisions of Executive Order 9835.

BACKGROUND:

Von Karman, after his entry into the United States in 1930, was employed as Director of the Guggenheim Aeronautical Research Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology and is one of the World's leading Aerodynamicists. Prior to 1947, he served as a Consultant to the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics and in 1947 he was made Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Commanding General of the Department of the Air Force and he is the holder of the Medal of Merit.

Information was recently received from G-2 indicating that one Todor Karman was Commissar of Higher Education in Hungary after the Communist uprising in 1919, and was later a member of the Communist Party in Germany. This information was furnished to the Air Force by letter dated January 23, 1951.

Air Force was also orally advised that information is contained in the files of the Bureau indicating Von Karman has associated in aeronautical research at the California Institute of Technology.

WDC:dba

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 DECLASSIFY ON: 25X/6

MAR 15 1951

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RECORDED - 52

SAC, Los Angeles

Director, FBI

March 14, 1951

THEODORE VON KARMAN
INTERNAL SECURITY - R

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354,194 6-13-97
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Reference is made to Bulet dated January 23, 1951, which advised that information in Bureau files concerning subject had been made available to OSI at Washington and the Field would be furnished instructions concerning the investigation of subject upon receipt of information from OSI as to subject's Federal employee status.

On March 7, 1951, the Bureau was advised by [REDACTED] Counterintelligence Division, OSI, that Von Karman, as Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board, Department of the Air Force, maintains an office in the Pentagon Building at Washington. According to [REDACTED] Von Karman is paid on a contract basis and is therefore not on the Air Force payroll or subject to Loyalty investigation under Executive Order 9835. [REDACTED] has further advised that subject is still employed by the California Institute of Technology and requested that the Bureau conduct an Internal Security - R investigation of subject. [REDACTED] has also advised that OSI is conducting immediate investigation in Europe for the purpose of developing background information concerning Todor Karman for the purpose of attempting to definitely establish that Todor Karman is identical with subject.

Information available to the Bureau concerning Theodore Von Karman reflects that he has been a Professor of Aeronautics at the California Institute of Technology since his arrival in the United States in 1930 with the exception of short periods of employment in other parts of the United States. Since 1936, he has been associated closely in aeronautical research [REDACTED]

MAILED 10

MAR 14 1951

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~~SECRET~~

cc - Washington Field (Attachment)
New York (Attachment)
Chicago
Cleveland
WAK:mes:njf

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b7c

(S) b1

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b1

[REDACTED]

b7D b7C

[REDACTED] Bureau files further reflect that [REDACTED] during a recent interview conducted in Los Angeles, advised that he had been sent to [REDACTED] by Theodore Von Karman for the purpose of [REDACTED]. According to [REDACTED] Von Karman had recommended [REDACTED] as an old friend. It is noted that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are the subjects of Los Angeles security investigations.

As you are aware, G-2 has now furnished information concerning one Todor Karman, which alleges that Todor Karman was appointed Deputy Commissar of Cultural and Educational Affairs in charge of higher education after the Communist uprising in Hungary during 1919. The information also alleges that Todor Karman later fled from Hungary to Germany where he continued his membership in the Communist Party. On the basis of information furnished by the Los Angeles Office, as a result of an INS record check, made by Los Angeles in August of 1941 in connection with a previous investigation of Von Karman, it appears that Todor Karman and Theodore Von Karman are identical.

On the basis of the foregoing information, Los Angeles is being designated office of origin and is instructed to conduct an immediate and thorough Internal Security - R investigation of Theodore Von Karman. The investigation is to be discreet and confined at this time to the use of such discreet sources as toll call checks, mail covers, spot physical surveillances, and interviews with established sources of information only. All reports are to be submitted promptly and are to be prepared in accordance with existing regulations concerning dissemination.

The Washington Field Office is to conduct the same type investigation of Von Karman during his presence in Washington, D. C. In the event it is subsequently determined that Von Karman spends the greater part of his time in Washington, the Washington Field Office will be designated by the Bureau as office of origin. It is noted that the Washington Field Office is presently in the process of interviewing Theodore Von Karman in connection with the

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investigation of William Perl. The Bureau does not desire that the interview with Von Karman concerning Perl be held in accordance as a result of the independent investigation of Von Karman which is now being instituted.

b7C
New York is to immediately contact G-2 Headquarters, New York City, for the purpose of determining the identity of the CIC informant who furnished the information concerning Todor Karman in order that the informant can be reinterviewed by Bureau sources or OSI in Europe for all information in his possession concerning Todor Karman or Theodore Von Karman. New York is to also determine from G-2 whether the investigation of [REDACTED] mentioned in New York letter dated October 4, 1950, is in any way related to the investigation of Von Karman. There is attached for New York a copy of the G-2 report concerning Von Karman, which New York forwarded the Bureau in connection with its letter of October 4, 1950. A photostatic copy is also attached for the information of the Washington Field Office.

On the basis of a previously conducted review of the Bureau files, it appears that Los Angeles is in the possession of all pertinent information concerning Theodore Von Karman. A current review of Bureau files is, however, being made and any additional pertinent information not available to Los Angeles will be furnished.

A check of Central Office records of INS at Washington is being made by the Bureau concerning Todor Karman to determine whether it is possible that Todor Karman and Theodore Von Karman are not identical. It is noted that INS records concerning Theodore Von Karman have already been checked by Los Angeles in connection with their previous investigation of subject. A photograph of Von Karman which appeared in the January 1, 1951, issue of Time magazine is being copied at the Bureau and will be furnished Los Angeles and interested offices.

The Bureau is also determining from its files the identity of persons who are known to have held official positions in the Hungarian Communist Government of 1919 and if deemed appropriate, will set out leads requesting the interview of those persons concerning subject. The results of the OSI investigation now being conducted in Europe will be made available when received at the Bureau.

~~SECRET~~ - ~~SECRET~~

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. A. H. Belmont

DATE: February 28, 1951

FROM : V. P. Keay

SUBJECT: THEODORE VON KARMAN
 Chairman
 Scientific Advisory Board
 Department of the Air Force
 Washington, D. C.
 LOYALTY OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Tolson _____
 Ladd _____
 Clegg _____
 Glavin _____
 Nichols _____
 Rosen _____
 Tracy _____
 Harbo _____
 Belmont _____
 Mohr _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Nease _____
 Gandy _____

By memorandum dated February 17, 1951, addressed to you by Mr. C. H. Stanley, it was recommended that the Liaison Section ascertain from the Department of the Air Force if Von Karman is an employee of the U. S. Government within the purview of Executive Order 9835 and, if so, it should be determined whether any action is desired concerning Von Karman under Executive Order 9835.

b7C This matter was discussed by Special Agent [redacted] with [redacted] OSI Headquarters. [redacted] requested that an investigation be made of Von Karman but requested that the investigation be under the heading of Internal Security rather than the Loyalty of Government Employees. This request was based on the fact that Von Karman is connected with the California Institute of Technology and is Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board. In connection with his duties as Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board he attends conferences in Washington approximately twice each year and is paid on a consultant basis. [redacted] stated that there is some doubt at this time as to whether it is proper to investigate Von Karman under Executive Order 9835 and stated that in any event, if possible, it would be preferable for the investigation to be made under the Internal Security character. In this connection they noted that Von Karman has access to practically all classified information in Air Force Headquarters and is an outstanding technician. They pointed out that to conduct the investigation under 9835, which may not be appropriate, the information developed would of necessity be passed to Air Force through the Civil Service Commission and many individuals not directly concerned would have access to the results of the investigation.

ESS:bsh

RECORDED 52

MAR 15 1951

34

b7C

354994
 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 2-21-92 BY 2553/STP

Let to L. A.
 CC - wfo
 9-1-50
 CV
 3-13-51
 WAK:man

Stanley

RECOMMENDATION:

b7C It is recommended that this memorandum be referred to the Loyalty Section for its information and then to the Internal Security Section for appropriate investigation. [REDACTED] requested that every effort be made to trace Theodore Von Karman's immigration and naturalization records in order that they can be compared with the immigration and naturalization records of Todar Karman, who was Commissioner of Higher Education in Hungary, in order that it can be determined whether the two individuals are or are not the same.

3-7-51

b7C

[REDACTED] stated that Von Karman maintains office in Pentagon and spends a considerable amount of time there but is paid on a contract basis and is therefore not on the Air Force payroll and not subject to E.O. 9835.

E.S.S.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: February 6, 1951

FROM : SAC, WFO

SUBJECT: THEODORE VON KARMAN
INTERNAL SECURITY - C
Bufile 100-372586 and 65-8943

From a review of the information presently available to the WFO, it would appear that the THEODORE VON KARMAN, subject of Bufile 100-372586, and the THEODORE VON KARMAN, subject of Bufile 65-8943, are probably identical.

This is being brought to the Bureau's attention as this office is not aware as to whether or not this identification has been made. RUC

cc: Los Angeles
65-1936

JEH:dep
100-22923

RECORDED - 14

354-894
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-21-92 BY SP5 GCD/DA

66 MAR 22 1951

b7c

JEH:cl
100-22923

FBI WASHINGTON FIELD

1-9-51

12:15 PM

DEFERRED

DIRECTOR, FBI

354-877
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-22-97 BY SP5 JCL/mjs

Mr.	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mohr	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

THEODORE VON KARMAN, SM - C. (BUFILE 100-372586) RE LOS ANGELES LETTER

NOV. 10, 1950, AND CLEVELAND LETTER JAN. 5, 1951. FILES OSI, AIR FORCE,

PENTAGON, WASHINGTON, D.C., SHOW THAT ON SEPT. 15, 1950, [REDACTED] OF INS, LOS ANGELES, CONTACTED [REDACTED] OSI, LOS ANGELES, RE

[REDACTED] ADVISING VON KARMAN ATTEMPTING CONTACT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] STATING VON KARMAN

LEAVING FOR EUROPE AND VERY NECESSARY THAT HE BE PERMITTED TO TALK WITH

[REDACTED] INS REFUSED THIS REQUEST. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] VON KARMAN MAINTAINS OFFICE IN

PENTAGON, WITH AIR FORCE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD, WHICH ADVISED NOV. 17, 1950

THAT HE WAS IN EUROPE FOR THEM. HOWEVER, AIR FORCE PERSONNEL RECORDS SHOW

TERMINATED JAN. 3, 1946. EFFORTS TO CLARIFY STATUS CONTINUING.

CC - Chicago by Mail
CC - Los Angeles by Mail
CC - New York by Mail
CC - Cleveland by Mail

RECORDED - 63

INDEXED - 63

HOTTEL

100-372586

cc: Mr. Belmont

COPIES DESTROYED

78 APR 5 1963

assigned to [REDACTED] b7C
1-15-51, Dec 2, 1950
1-15-51, Dec 2, 1950
LAPP - possible esp. matter.
max.

SERVICE UNIT
SEARCH SLIP

4-22a

Supervisor

Room

4708

Subj:

Todor Karmen

☒ Exact Spelling

☒ All References

☐ Subversive Ref.

☐ Main File

☐ Restricted to Locality of

Searchers

Initial

Date

1-16

FILE NUMBER

SERIALS

100-372586

File 5-16

358894
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5-22-97 BY SP5/KJG

Initialed